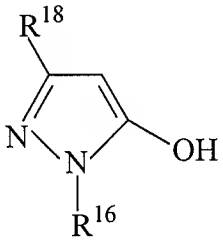
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

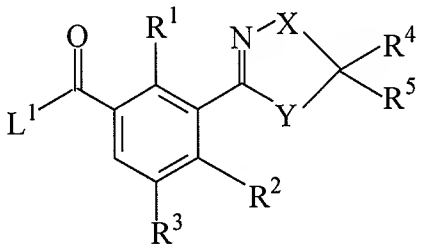
1.-16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) A process for the preparation of the 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I defined in claim 28, which comprises acylating a pyrazole of the formula II

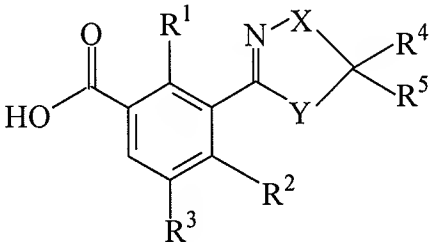


II

with an activated carboxylic acid IIIα or with carboxylic acid IIIβ



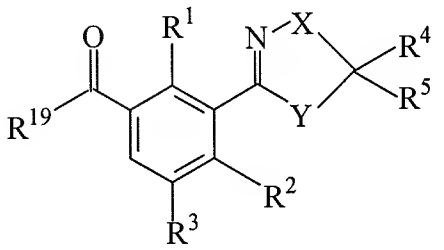
IIIα



IIIβ

wherein L^1 is a nucleophilically displaceable leaving group, and subjecting the acylation product to a rearrangement reaction to give the compound I.

18. (currently amended) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III,



III

wherein

R^{19} is halogen, hydroxyl or ~~a radical which can be removed by hydrolysis~~ C_1-C_6-alkoxy,

R^1 is C_1-C_2-alkyl, methoxy or methylsulfonyl;

R^2 is nitro, halogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl or C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen, halogen or C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^4 is hydrogen or methyl, and R^5 is hydrogen;

X is O;

Y is $CR^{13}R^{14}$;

R^{13}, R^{14} are hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxycarbonyl or $CONR^7R^8$;

R^7 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl; and

R^8 is C_1-C_4-alkyl.

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

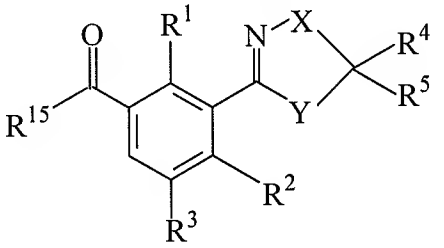
21. (previously presented) A composition comprising a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I defined in claim 28, and auxiliaries conventionally used for the formulation of crop protection products.

22. (previously presented) A process for the preparation of the composition defined in claim 21, which comprises mixing a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I and auxiliaries conventionally used for the formulation of crop protection products.

23. (previously presented) A method of controlling undesirable vegetation, which comprises allowing a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I defined in claim 28 to act on plants, their environment and/or on seeds.

24. - 27. (cancelled)

28. (previously presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I



I

wherein

X is O;

R^1 is C_1-C_2-alkyl, methoxy or methylsulfonyl;

R^2 is nitro, halogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_1-C_6-alkylthio, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl or C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen, halogen or C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^4 is hydrogen or methyl, and R^5 is hydrogen;

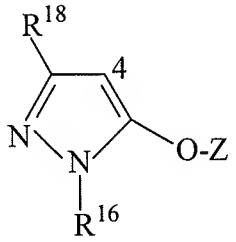
Y is $CR^{13}R^{14}$;

R^{13}, R^{14} are hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxycarbonyl or $CONR^7R^8$;

R^7 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^8 is C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^{15} is a pyrazole of the formula II which is linked in the 4-position



II

wherein

R^{16} is C_1-C_6-alkyl;

Z is H; and

R^{18} is hydrogen or methyl.

29. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R^1 is methyl, R^2 is methylsulfonyl, R^3 is hydrogen, R^{16} is methyl and R^{18} is hydrogen.

30. (previously presented) 4-[2-Methyl-3-(4,5-dihydroisoxazol-3-yl)-4-methylsulfonylben-zoyl]-1-methyl-5-hydroxy-1H-pyrazole.

31. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R^1 is methyl, R^2 is methyl-sulfonyl, R^3 is hydrogen, R^{16} is ethyl and R^{18} is hydrogen.

32.-33. (cancelled)

34. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R^1 is methyl, R^2 is methylsulfonyl, R^3 is hydrogen, R^{16} is methyl and R^{18} is methyl.

35. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R^4 denotes hydrogen.

36. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R^1 is methyl.

37. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 35, wherein R^1 is methyl.

38. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 35, wherein R^1 is methyl, R^2 is methylsulfonyl, R^3 is hydrogen, R^{16} is ethyl and R^{18} is hydrogen.

39. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 35, wherein R^1 is methyl, R^2 is methylsulfonyl, R^3 is hydrogen, R^{16} is methyl and R^{18} is methyl.

40. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 18, wherein R^4 denotes hydrogen.

41. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 18, wherein R^1 is methyl.

42. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 40, wherein R^1 is methyl.

43. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 20, wherein R^4 denotes hydrogen.

44. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 20, wherein R^1 is methyl.

45. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 43, wherein R^1 is methyl.

46. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 45, wherein R^2 is methylsulfonyl and R^3 is hydrogen.

47. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein

X is O;

R^1 is C_1-C_2-alkyl;

R^2 is C_1-C_6-alkylthio or C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen;

Y is $CR^{13}R^{14}$; and

R^{13}, R^{14} are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl.

48. (previously presented) The composition defined in claim 21, comprising a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I, wherein

X is O;

R^1 is C_1-C_2-alkyl;

R^2 is C_1-C_6-alkylthio or C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen;

Y is $CR^{13}R^{14}$; and

R^{13}, R^{14} are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl.

49. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 18, wherein

X is O;

R^1 is C_1-C_2-alkyl;

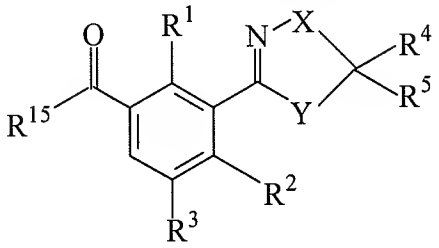
R^2 is C_1-C_6-alkylthio or C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen;

Y is $CR^{13}R^{14}$; and

R^{13}, R^{14} are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl.

50. (currently amended) A compound represented by formula I



I

wherein

R^1 is C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^2 is C_1-C_6-alkylthio or C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl;

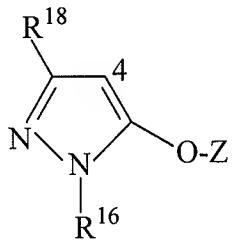
R^3 is hydrogen;

R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

X is oxygen;

Y is $CR^{10}R^{11}$, wherein R^{10} and R^{11} are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^{15} is a pyrazole of formula II



II

which is linked in the 4-position, wherein

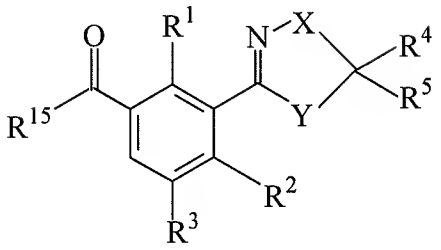
R^{16} is C_1-C_6-alkyl;

Z is hydrogen or SO_2R^{17}, wherein

R^{17} is phenyl or phenyl which is partially or fully halogenated and/or has attached to it one to three of the following groups: C_1-C_4-alkyl and C_1-C_4-alkoxy; and

R^{18} is hydrogen or C_1-C_6-alkyl.

51. (previously presented) A herbicide characterized by containing one or more compounds represented by formula I



I

wherein

R^1 is C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^2 is C_1-C_6-alkylthio or C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl;

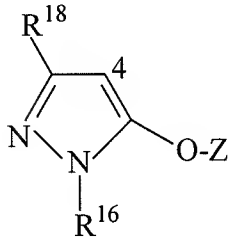
R^3 is hydrogen;

R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

X is oxygen;

Y is $CR^{10}R^{11}$, wherein R^{10} and R^{11} are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^{15} is a pyrazole of formula II



II

which is linked in the 4-position, wherein

R^{16} is C_1-C_6-alkyl;

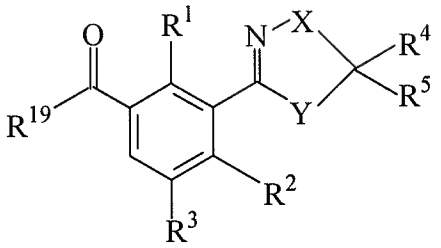
Z is hydrogen or SO_2R^{17}, wherein

R^{17} is phenyl or phenyl which is partially or fully halogenated and/or has attached to it one to three of the following groups: C_1-C_4-alkyl and C_1-C_4-alkoxy; and

R^{18} is hydrogen or C_1-C_6-alkyl,

as active ingredients.

52. (previously presented) A compound represented by formula III



III

wherein

R^{19} is hydroxyl or C_1-C_6-alkoxy;

R^1 is C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^2 is C_1-C_6-alkylthio or C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen;

R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

X is oxygen; and

Y is $CR^{10}R^{11}$, wherein R^{10} and R^{11} are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl.